



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Raymond J. Beach et al.

Attorney Docket: IL-10571

Serial No. : 09/651,658

Art Unit: 2828

Filed : August 29, 2000

Examiner: C. Jackson

For : Tapered Laser Rods As A Means
Of Minimizing The Path Length Of
Trapped Barrel Mode Rays

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 28000

AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the office Action mailed July 23, 2002, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 12 and 16 as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a polished doped laser rod comprising a first end and a second end
and an entire length, wherein said laser rod comprises a tapered diameter along
said entire length;

a first flanged endcap operatively connected to said first end; and

a second flanged endcap operatively connected to said second end.